

Fiscal TOPICS

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Commercial Establishment Fund

Background

During the 2010 Legislative Session, the General Assembly enacted the Commercial Animal Establishment Act, which revised the regulation of nonagricultural animals by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs). A business that sells, breeds, or cares for nonagricultural animals in Iowa must be registered with the state or must operate under the federal Animal Care Program, and the registration fees are deposited into the Commercial Establishment Fund. The types of nonagricultural animals regulated by the state include:

- Dogs and cats when discussing boarding kennels, commercial kennels, hobby kennels, commercial breeders, animal dealers, public auctions, animal shelters, and pounds.
- Dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, nonhuman primates, birds, fish, or other vertebrate animals when discussing pet shops.

The Program is administered by the Animal Industry Bureau of the DALs. The Department's website includes a searchable database for animal care facilities, kennels, and other businesses associated with the breeding or selling of nonagricultural animals.

Fees Collected

Under the new legislation, the fees charged to the animal care facilities include:

- \$75 annual certificate of registration fee for an animal pound, animal shelter, or research facility.
- \$175 annual state license fee for a boarding kennel, commercial kennel, or pet shop.
- \$175 annual state permit fee for a commercial breeder or public auction.

Any funds from the collection of civil penalties related to this Program are deposited in the General Fund.

A business that is licensed under the federal Animal Care Program must also obtain a state license or permit.

The fees are deposited in the Commercial Establishment Fund, and the funds are used to pay for inspectors and other related expenditures of the Animal Industry Bureau of the DALs. Since the Program began, the average annual amount collected is \$300,000.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [162](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [67](#)

More Information

Animal Industry Bureau, DALs: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry/animalWelfare.asp>

Animal and Plant Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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